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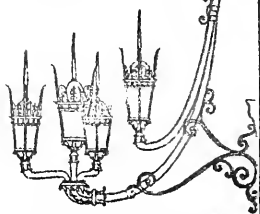
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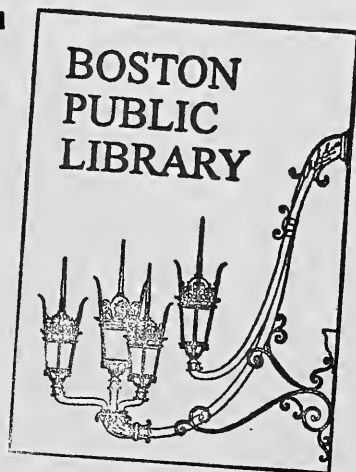
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**BOSTON PARKS  
DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL  
REPORTS  
FOR  
FRANKLIN PARK  
1901-1910**



**FRANKLIN PARK COALITION  
BULLETIN**

A Publication of The Franklin Park Coalition, Inc.  
319 Forest Hills Street, Boston, MA 02130 • 522-7431  
September, 1983

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Laurel Sutton typed the Reports for publication.

Richard Heath, editor  
September 1, 1983

27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1901

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT,  
JOHN A. PETTIGREW:

Franklin Park.

The principal work of planting has been completed in Franklin Park, that of the past year having been confined to the finishing up of details in the general scheme. The bordering plantations of trees are fast producing the effect of seclusion in the park. Thrifty young woodlands now may be found, where once open views of the adjacent streets marred the prospect, and detracted from the enjoyment of persons driving or walking in the park. To produce as quickly as possible this desired effect of a screen, and to provide mutual protection, the trees were planted thickly; this has necessitated considerable thinning out to avert damage from overcrowding. The surplus material has been used in making new plantations. From this time on the work of planting in Franklin Park might properly be charged to maintenance, as the greater part of the material used will be obtained from plantations which require thinning out.

The thinning out of diseased and surplus trees in the old woodlands, which has been prosecuted for the past five years, continues to bear fruit. The gradual spread on top of a healthier growth, made possible



by the admission of air and light, makes each tree a better specimen of its kind, and at the same time enhances the natural woodland effect.

The floors of many of the woodlands, notably those in the Wilderness, need attention in the way of grubbing out tree weeds, such as locust, cherry, and other seedlings, which grow rankly to the detriment or the exclusion of the more natural ground cover of wild shrubbery and herbaceous plants. Some work of this character has been done in Long Crouch Woods, which was badly infested with wild cherry seedlings. This piece of woodland is much frequented by picnic parties; and as the loam covering originally was very thin, over a rocky foundation, the trees have suffered from lack of nutrition and from hard usage. To ameliorate these conditions about 9,000 cubic yards of loam were spread over a large part of the wood. This gives an additional covering of loam, averaging about six and one-half inches in thickness over the treated part, which will greatly tend to the improvement of the trees, which have been starving in a thin and impoverished soil.

Other woodlands in Franklin Park are suffering from the thinness of the soil covering. Fine tree growth is one of the chief features of a pleasing landscape; and as loam at present is offered freely at cheap rates, it would seem to be wise to make liberal appropriations for the purchase of this prime necessity for producing a good growth of trees on the rocky sterile portions of Franklin Park.

During most of the season two gangs of four men each were kept at the important work of tree pruning. Considerable additional under-drainage was laid in Nazingdale, with good results. The greater part of the length of the old brook (now carried in a pipe below the surface) was levelled and seeded, which made a vast improvement in what was once a rough and swampy hollow.

To improve the entrance to the park from Seaver street and Columbus avenue, Walnut avenue was widened between Seaver street and the Walnut avenue entrance to seventy feet. The foundation was laid for a boundary wall on the park side, and the work of the superstructure will commence with the opening of spring.

A decrease in the interest taken in golf, during the past season, was noticeable, the total number of players that went over the course being 31,007, a decrease of twenty-two and one-half percent. from the attendance of the previous season. Early in the year a rearrangement of the links was made, by laying out for experienced players a nine-hole course around the borders of the meadow, and for beginners a six-hole course through the centre and within the lines of the nine-hole course. The first tees were changed from the old location to Schoolmaster Hill, where a golf house has been fashioned out of the tiled shelter. Accommodations are there furnished for checking and storing golfing bags and clothing. Dressing-rooms for men and women are provided also in the building.

Tennis seems to be increasing in favor. All the available ground in Ellicottdale was in use last season. The courts were in constant demand, and frequently on Saturday afternoons and holidays all who wished to play could not be accommodated at once. The Franklin Field courts also were well patronized.

ENGINEER'S REPORT,  
C.E. PUTNAM, ASSISTANT ENGINEER:

Franklin Park.

Walks built (1/2 mile). . . . . .2,928 square yards.

Drain pipe laid:

4-inch. . . . . .120 linear feet.

3-inch. . . . . .1,562 linear feet.

Foundation for boundary wall laid . . . .400 linear feet.

Excavation for widening Walnut avenue .3,500 cubic yards.

Loam bought and spread on plantations .9,805 cubic yards.

A flight of four stone steps has been built opposite Angel street, and a flight of 39 stone steps at Hagborne Hill has been removed.

The arrangement of drives, walks and planting spaces at the junction of Pierpont and Playstead roads has been changed to conform to the construction of the glade, in place of the proposed greeting, and the slopes have been regraded.

The gate posts and parapet wall at Forest Hills bridge have been taken down, and the stone hauled to the site of the proposed sanitary building on Schoolmaster Hill.

The trellis at Schoolmaster Hill arbor has been taken down and the stone hauled to the site of the proposed sanitary building in Long Crouch woods.

The potting house has been moved into the yard in front of the repair shops, and rearranged for a storehouse and office building; and the greenhouses have been torn down.

28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1902

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT,  
JOHN A. PETTIGREW:

Franklin Park.

The improvement in the old woodlands of Franklin Park resulting from the careful and continued thinning out of all overcrowding trees and the pruning off of dead and diseased branches is very marked. This is especially noticeable in the greater spread of branches in the trees and in the increase of desirable undergrowth. A considerable area of woodland has been cleared of tree weeds, notably in the woods opposite and west of the Overlook, on Juniper Hill, and in the woods bordering Morton street. On account of insufficient funds little was done the past season in adding loam to the sterile parts of the old woods. This is regrettable, and it is to be hoped, in the interests of the future, that sufficient money will be given the Board to permit the carrying on of this work.

Thinning out in the plantations was continued, as in past years, to allow room for the full development of trees and shrubs. A large part of the material removed was used in preparing new plantations, and the remainder was sold.

The larger part of the work of the past season in Franklin Park, however, consisted in the preparation of ground for planting and in the care of the young plantations. These plantations, owing to the dryness of the three preceding seasons, required constant cultivation and the application of mulchings for the conservation of moisture in the ground. This work extended generally over the entire system of parks, and, in consequence, the trees and the shrubs are in good growing condition.

The wall on Walnut avenue, between Seaver street and the entrance to Franklin Park, was completed last spring and the slopes behind the wall were graded and planted. The construction of the widened street at this point by the Street Department would improve very much this important entrance to the park.

The drainage of the Nazingdale hollow was extended into Ellicottdale, and spurs were carried into the wet spots. It is expected that this will complete the tile-drainage of the golf course. The beech plantation near the Refectory also was tile-drained.

The public have shown much interest in a small collection of native wild fowl colonized at Scarboro' Pond. In view of this arrangements have been made for additions to the number of species. The location is an admirable one for this purpose, as the pond contains three islands well suited for nesting and for protection from dogs. The pond is also a favorite resort of the public.

Several pieces of iron and wood-working machinery have been purchased for our repair shops. Our equipment now enables us to do all our repair work at home, including machine and blacksmith work, horseshoeing, carpentering, plumbing, painting, pipe-work and harnessmaking.

29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1903

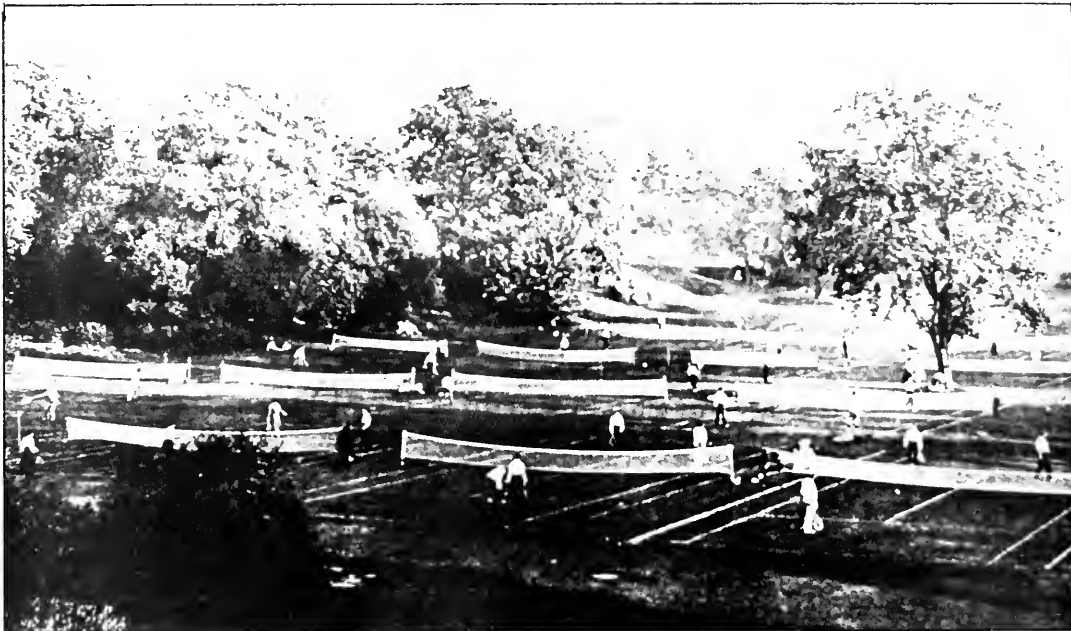
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COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

The Board is gratified with the progress that is being made by the Street Department in the construction of that part of Columbia road which borders the Strandway, the completion of which will bring to a conclusion this important work, which was begun in 1897, and will permit of the opening of the road throughout its whole length, from Franklin Park to Marine Park, during the present season. The Board has completed the construction of its part of the road over what was formerly Burnham's wharf. It remains to plant the several acres reserved for plantations. This will be done by this department under an arrangement with the Street Department, by which the expense of this work will be paid by the latter as part of the cost of construction under the statute of 1897.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The systematic thinning out of diseased and overcrowding trees in the old woodlands, which has been carried on for several years past generally throughout the park system, is bearing abundant fruit in the improvement in the general effect of the woodlands, as well as in the more healthy appearance of the trees individually. The cutting having been done gradually,



Lawn Tennis in Ellicott Dale  
from the 29th Annual Report for the year 1903



Franklin Park Golf Links  
from the 30th Annual Report for the year 1904

the effect of mass has not been impaired, and the letting in of light and air has encouraged the growth of side branches.

The important work of pruning, which is tedious and expensive, has also been prosecuted as thoroughly as means have allowed. By the end of next year it is expected that the old woodlands in the main part of the system will have had their initial pruning completed, and that, thereafter, they will require only ordinary maintenance care.

While the West Roxbury Parkway woods have been thinned regularly, no pruning has been done except on the group of fine oaks near Weld street.

Dead branches, or stumps of branches, carry decay into the heart of the trees and do irreparable injury; hence the necessity of provision for carrying on this essential work of pruning.

The young plantations generally are looking well. Thinning out has been carefully done, but more rapid growth would have resulted had we had an appropriation large enough to give more cultivation. With each year the area of planted ground has increased, with no material increase of funds provided for its maintenance, and, consequently, we cannot obtain the best possible results in growth. Considerable plantings of oaks were made in the young plantations, and also in Long Crouch Woods. About seven acres of the meadow, (Nazingdale) were plowed, levelled, and seeded with red fescue (*Festuca rubra*). It would be well to continue this work, as circumstances may permit, until the levelling of the whole is completed.

By the erection of a brick building at the administration year, much needed room has been acquired for the growth of our repair department and for storage purposes. Space has been left in the building for needed public sanitary accommodations, which it is hoped will be provided the coming season.

An extension to the winter house for wild ducks has been made, to accommodate the flock of swans purchased last summer. The collection of wild fowl has proved a great attraction to visitors, not only while in their summer home in Scarboro' pond, but in their winter quarters, where a stream of water runs through their yards, and where they can be studied at close range.

A sanitary building for men and women was erected on Schoolmaster hill during the past summer. The building is of seam-faced Rockport granite, with slate roof, tiled floors, and marble and brass fixtures. Two other sanitary buildings of similar design have been built, one in the Arboretum and the other in the Fens.

30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1904

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The woodlands and plantations have been carefully looked over, and all overcrowding, diseased, and unhealthy material has been cut out and removed. Under the method of treatment practised the past few years, - that of thinning out, and, in some cases, of mulching with loam, - the old woodlands have greatly improved in appearance. The young plantations, too, are in good condition; yet they do not show the rapid growth that might have been accomplished by thorough cultivation, which it is to be regretted we have been unable to give. During the past winter preparation has been made in the Wilderness for planting a large number of oaks, flowering dogwoods, witch hazels, thorns, and similar material. Ground is being also prepared in the young plantations for the planting of young oaks next spring. All this material will be furnished from the Department nurseries. Among the thorns will be a quantity of the new species lately discovered by Prof. Charles S. Sargent. The positions of the thorns will be located on a plan of the ground, from which, in case of the loss of labels, the individuals may be readily relocated.



31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1905

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COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

The part of Columbia road remaining unfinished east of the bridge over the Old Colony Railroad has been practically completed. This is the last of the work which the Street Department was authorized to do under the Parkway Act of 1897. The opening of this road throughout its entire length from Franklin Park to Marine Park adds a little more than four miles to the parkways now under control of the Board, and unites the urban and Marine Park systems, making a continuous park drive of about twelve miles.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The improvement in the woodlands generally throughout the department becomes more noticeable with each season. Our work in thinning out overcrowding or worthless growth, and the cutting off of dead and diseased limbs, shows its good results in the feathering out of the trees and the more vigorous undergrowth of native shrubs and herbaceous plants, strengthened by our letting in light and air. Another factor in the improvement of these woodlands has been the mulching of the surface with loam where the soil covering was found to be thin or poor in quality. We have done considerable

of this work, yet much remains to be done. Many of the old woodlands in Franklin Park are situated on rocky slopes with a light covering of loam for their support. Additions of loam (for which we need additional appropriations) to trees growing under such conditions would materially increase their growth and beauty.

During the past fall and winter extensive preparations were made for spring planting, a large number of holes being carefully prepared along the Canterbury-street border for young oaks. On Juniper hill ground was prepared for planting oaks and junipers, and preparations were made along the face of the slope of Scarboro hill for planting thorns, dogwood and other large-growing shrubbery. Arrangements for this sort of planting were also made on the edge of the young plantations on the opposite slope of the hill, along the Circuit Drive. The material for this work is all at hand in the nurseries of the department. Ground was prepared last spring in the Wilderness for a colony of mountain laurels. The plants were collected from native stock, which had been cultivated in the department nurseries for four years, and were in fine condition. The planting forms an irregular grouping along the road and bridle-path in the Wilderness, and promises, in a little time, to be a very pleasing feature. The young tree plantations are generally in good condition. Much better growth, however, would accrue each year did our means permit of a higher degree of cultivation.

Smoke conditions are becoming more serious with each season. Evergreens especially show the effect very markedly. At the present rate of increase of smoke pollution in the atmosphere a very few years will see the end of evergreen conifers in our parks, except as stunted, blackened specimens. Therefore the planting of conifers for permanent effect would seem to be unwise.

Efforts have been made for the past two seasons to breed pheasants in the park, by using domestic hens as brooders. Last year about fifty were carried through until fall, enough of which still remain to interest visitors to the park. Quail, too, are protected and fed in winter, and are fairly plentiful in the Arboretum and in Franklin Park.

32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1907

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

To meet the increasing needs of the department the old blacksmith's shope at the service yard was equipped as a stable for ten horses. Offices for the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and the general timekeeper were fitted up in the upper story of the new storage building. A new storeroom, conveniently arranged for the quick handling of tools and more valuable stores, was made in the lower story of the building. These accommodations were much needed and will greatly facilitate the work of the department. New walks were constructed in Long Crouch Woods, extending from the corner of Walnut avenue and Seaver street to a point nearly opposite Humboldt avenue, with two branches, one leading to the golf links and the other to Seaver street near the proposed site of the sanitary building.

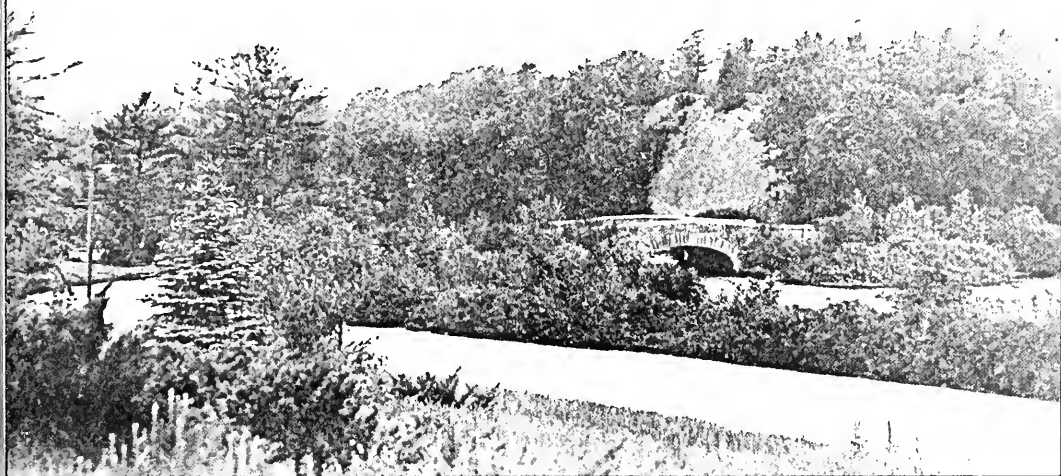
33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1907

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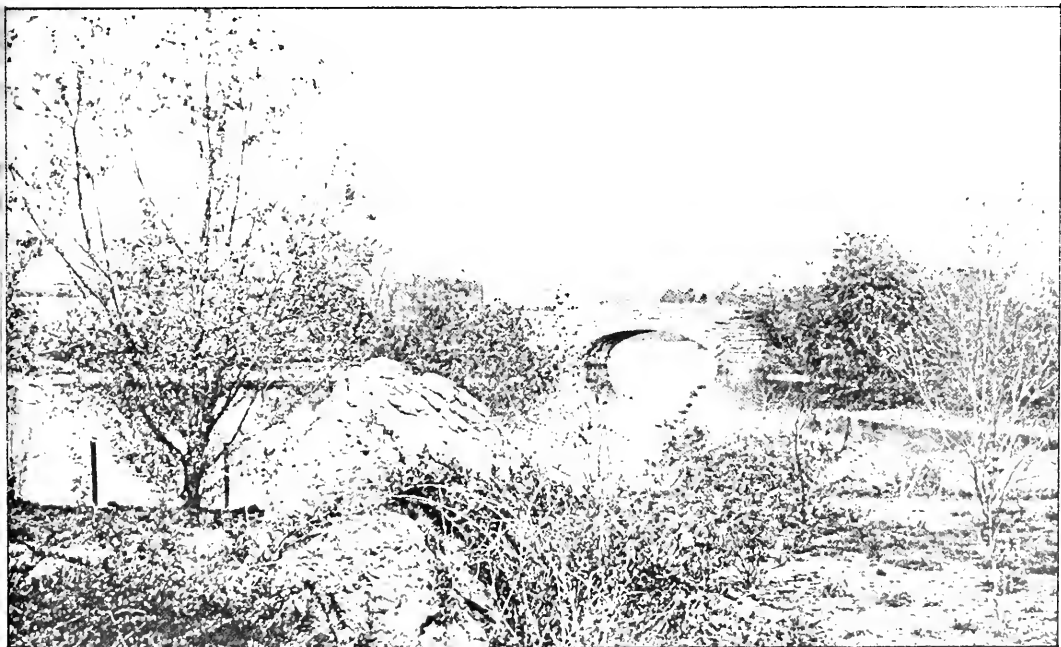
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The young plantations of trees in Franklin Park are growing rapidly, while the earlier planted ones are beginning to assume somewhat of a woodland appearance. As growth has progressed the thinning out of overcrowding trees has been regularly done; pruning for form has also been systematically performed. While results in the main have been good, much more would have been attained had our appropriations permitted of a free cultivation of the ground under the trees. The old woodlands have very much improved in appearance; the pruning and thinning of the past ten years, together with the loam additions made to the surface where the soil covering was thin, have induced a better growth in trees and in undergrowth.

Since the age limit of those who are permitted to use the Playstead for sports has been raised to nineteen years the attendance has steadily increased, especially on Saturdays and holidays, when the large area is fully occupied by those indulging in the various games. This good result has been attained without serious damage to the surrounding planted grounds.



Scarborough Pond Bridge and Rock Milton.  
from the 33rd Annual Report for the year 1907.



Scarborough Pond Footbridge.  
from the 34th Annual Report for the year 1908

34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1908

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

By the rapid growth of the trees, the young plantations throughout the park system are fast assuming the character of woodlands. This is especially noticeable in Franklin Park, where the oaks, beeches, maples, etc., which were planted as saplings nine to twelve years ago, now range from 15 to 30 feet in height. The pines and hemlocks, too, show a corresponding excellent growth. These good results have been brought about by a thorough use of the horse cultivator, in loosening the surface of the ground under the trees, for four or five years after planting. The results would have been still more pronounced had our finances enabled us to continue this process to a later date. Five or six years ago the plantations were seeded down, and since then only such hand cultivation as our appropriation would allow has been given to individual trees.

The old spring at Abbotswood, having become unfit for drinking purposes during the past summer, was abandoned and the flow cut off. The fountain was then moved inward from the walk and connected with the city supply. space was reserved around the fountain for fixed seats. to form a rendezvous or rest, and a convenient walk, connecting the fountain with Canterbury street, was constructed.

A constantly increasing number of visitors come to Franklin Park, especially on Sundays, when the links, the meadows and the woodlands are well besprinkled with groups of people.

35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1909

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COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

The Park Commission is most anxious to induce increased use of the parks and playgrounds that it administers. The neighboring ocean furnishes constant attraction at Wood Island Park and the Strandway, at Marine Park and Fort Independence. The costly substitution of a filled roadway with a beach of gravel between the two latter or the building of aquaria at City Point (both of which have been urged) would only be adding attractions to parks that already draw vast numbers of visitors.

Franklin Park lacks the presence of the ocean, and the sole fact that it is very beautiful seems insufficient to bring people to it in its fair proportion. It would undoubtedly be more used if automobiles were allowed to enter it, but thus far the commission has been unwilling to surrender to those self-asserting vehicles the quiet and seclusion and safety that the park now possesses. The approach by public conveyance into Franklin Park is from Columbia road entrance, or from Columbus avenue entrance, or from Seaver street, which connects the two on the northern border of the park, or from Forest Hills Station. From Forest Hills Station to the nearest point of the car line running through Seaver street is by the shortest possible route a very long walk for many adults or children.



We grant a concession yearly to a firm that during summer weather and when it is profitable run barges at infrequent intervals through the park for a small fare. It might be better if this line were owned and managed by the park to run even at some financial loss between the entrances and through the park at frequent intervals and at all seasons for a slight fare. This would probably open the center of the park to many who cannot now reach it.

Useful as such conveyances would be we, however, also feel an increasing need of some centers of attraction to interest those to whom the loveliness of the landscape is not an adequate lure. If aquaria are built from the Parkman Fund they will be stocked with fresh as well as salt water life and they might quite as well be at Franklin Park as at the Parks in South Boston, which have attractions enough. Deer or other animals would please many visitors and in the dove-cotes that are not stocked with many varieties of pigeons there is the nucleus of what might be a good collection if they were housed in a suitable inclosure or aviary, to which might be attached the winter quarters of the many swans and ducks that have to be cared for when the ponds are frozen. Another attraction that we can create with little outlay would be a plain, simple out-of-doors garden with all the summer flowers, annual and perennial. Later by the aid of the Parkman Fund there might be added to such a garden lines of hothouses for winter exhibitions. An open-air amphitheater formed in a hillside for band concerts or for meetings or ceremonies would be most useful and be an improvement on the present bandstand, where there is no adequate seating. It might form one step toward the full completion of Mr. Olmsted's original design for "The Greeting," which was to have been the main and culminating feature of his park but which was abandoned for economical reasons. This "Greeting" was to have been a long mall running from Columbia road to "The Playstead," Shaded by many rows of tall trees and arranged for promenade on foot or in carriage - or to-day in motor - with the music amphitheater as its central feature. This grand focus of the park design had the cordial approval of Mayor Hibbard and we trust may be undertaken shortly through means of the Parkman Fund; but any or all of these "features" would help to draw people to Franklin Park and once there its intrinsic beauty will surely make them care for it. We hope that when possible funds may be provided to carry them into execution.

Unlike Franklin Park the playgrounds that are in our charge need no "features" to make them draw the public to them. To visit any one of them on Saturday or other week day afternoons only makes one long for more of them as places of inestimable benefit to the youth of the city. This is true of the large fields where ball playing and all manly sports are conducted with tremendous vigor, or the small neighborhood playgrounds in populous districts where little children and their mothers, escaping from the crowded houses and streets have a chance to enjoy fresh air and quiet.

Visit the playgrounds, however, on Sunday and they are deserted. The boys, so vigorous the day before, are loafing on the corners, and it is well if they are not engaged in chucking pennies. Nothing is doing on the playgrounds. The police would stop any games. In winter we flood these places and for some reason skating is allowed. In Franklin Park we build toboggan slides that can be used on Sunday and hundreds of people gather to see this sport, but in summer there must be no tennis playing nor bowls nor quoits nor cricket even in the afternoon or after church, and even though on private grounds these quiet games are carried on by all classes of society to-day undisturbed. The logic of all this is a little hard to follow, but it appears that skating and tobogganing as "forms of locomotion" fare better than anything that can be called a game. Yankee ingenuity ought to be able to invent more "forms of locomotion" for Sunday use on our playgrounds. Certainly the laws that forbid quiet and unobtrusive games at reasonable hours, whatever may be said of them in other respects, prevent the full use of our playgrounds, and for that reason we should like to see the laws or their enforcement modified.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The plantations of young trees in Franklin Park continue to show the same satisfactory progress. These plantations have been regularly thinned, in order that the trees in their young stages of growth might not injure each other by overcrowding. The soil conditions are excellently suited for tree growth, and within a few years the plantations should assume more the character of old woodlands than of plantations of young trees. This treatment of the thinning out of young plantations need not be continued to the extent of making each tree a specimen of its kind, but only until the trees have attained strength and show some individuality, when the thinning should be done with the view of forming pleasing combinations in groups and masses, having due regard to provision for development and healthy growth. This will allow for a fair measure of individuality in each tree without destroying the mass effects.

Some of the old woodlands, of which The Wilderness, Long Crouch Woods and Abbotswood are examples, are underlaid with rock, with picturesque outcroppings of ledge and large boulders. These areas, by their location and the character of their topography, are eminently fitted for forest growth, but, unfortunately, they are thinly covered with loam and the growth is consequently stunted. Efforts have been made in the past to remedy this condition by the addition of loam, but, with the exception of the woodlands and bare slopes surrounding the glade, the work has been limited from lack of funds. Now, however, that the Parkman Fund is available for expenditures in Franklin Park the interests of the future call for an appropriation from this fund for the addition of loam to sterile areas on which tree planting or tree growth is clearly indicated.

To meet the requirements for road oil storage, a reinforced Portland cement concrete tank, with a capacity of 25,000 gallons, was constructed in the administration yard. Adjoining inflammable oils, varnishes, etc. These are sufficiently distant from the buildings to insure to them a reasonable freedom from risk of danger in case of fire. The enlargement of the administration yard, by cutting into the hillside, has been prosecuted whenever a favorable opportunity occurred for using the excavated material.

As is usual generally throughout the park system, all diseased or overcrowding trees were cut down and sawed up into lumber or firewood. In the shrubberies, too, much work or renovation, by pruning, removal or replanting, was done during the season. Such attention keeps shrubberies fresh and attractive.

36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOSTON PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1910

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COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The herbaceous garden in Franklin Park has been well started. The flowers made a brilliant display last summer and will be far more attractive in the coming year. This garden will form a part of the Zoological Gardens and aid in preserving parklike features as the zoological collection extends.

The commission this year again would urge that authority be obtained for the opening of the parks and playgrounds to "innocent recreation" on Sunday afternoon. We believe that the grounds so thoroughly used on Saturday afternoons should be put to use on Sunday afternoons and can see no reason why if innocent sport is permitted by the police on private or club grounds it should not be also allowed on the playgrounds open to those who have no such grounds of their own. We desire to see tennis, quoits, bowls, cricket and baseball on the playgrounds on summer Sunday afternoons, just as skating and tobogganing are now permitted on Sundays in winter on these same grounds. The idea that the former should be forbidden on Sundays as being competitive games and that the latter should be permitted as "methods of locomotion" seems to us unreasonable.

It has been a constant question with the Park Commission whether the growth of foliage and with the changes that have at times become necessary the original plan of the parks as designed by Mr. Olmsted, senior, was being adhered to; or whether if not being adhered to the changes were beneficial or otherwise. Seeking light on this question the commission engaged the late Mr. Olmsted's sons\* to make a thorough peregrination of the park in company with our superintendent and landscape architect. Messrs. Olmsted have just given us their interesting report and we hand it to you herewith.

In our last report we suggested various methods of creating attractions in Franklin Park. Very soon thereafter the opportunity presented itself for establishing the Zoological Garden at Franklin Park and the Aquarium at South Boston to be paid for from the Parkman Fund, and we made a report to you and the City Council some months since regarding the designs for these.\*\* Since then we have carefully studied in greater detail the Aquarium building. Our advisers have visited New York, Washington and Detroit, and have consulted with the authorities there and we have engaged Doctor Bean of Albany to review our drawings and advise with us regarding them. We hope to start on building the Aquarium as soon as the season opens. We have also worked over in detail the general plan for the Zoological Garden in Franklin Park and the more detailed designs for the winter bird house; the summer out-door flying cage or aviary; the duck pond; the bear den and also dens for various other animals. Mr. Hornaday, the director of the Bronx Zoological Gardens, has at our request been a second time to Boston, reviewed all our work and advised with us professionally and to our great advantage. We offer the following program as what we should like to do as regards the Zoological Garden.

We desire to open the Zoological Garden on June 1, 1912. In that event we should not accept any animals before April 1, 1912. The whole of 1911 and the entire spring of 1912 would be required for preparations. On June 1, 1912, we should like to have two good buildings ready, namely, the bird house and the building that would finally be the deer house, but which temporarily would contain any animals requiring indoor care. The accompanying plan will show where, after mature study, we now plan to place these different buildings and dens, etc., with which to start the Zoological Park. The estimate for all this preparation would be as follows:

Camels, camelopard and musk ox. . . . .	\$8,000
Carnivorous group. . . . .	24,000
Deer house and yards (to be temporarily used for all indoor animals) . . . . .	55,000

\*John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, jr. John Charles superintended the construction of Franklin Park.

\*\*See The Franklin Park Zoo: Selected Reports, a publication of the Franklin Park Coalition for this report.

Deer corrals and sheds . . . . .	12,000
Bird house . . . . .	75,000
Flying cage. . . . .	12,000
Wild fowl pond and fences. . . . .	5,000
Continuation of herbaceous garden with water ponds for water plants, etc. . . . .	<u>9,000</u>
Total. . . . .	\$200, 000

Animals for the above. . . . .	\$25,000
Aquarium at South Boston . . . . .	100,000
Sewer, fences, superintendent's salary, survey and drawings . . . . .	<u>25,000</u>
	<u>150,000</u>
Total. . . . .	\$350,000

Of this needed amount there has already been placed  
at our disposal about . . . . . 120,000

Additional sum needed before June 1, 1912. . . . . \$230,000

We ask whether it will not be possible for you and the Parkman Fund Committee to arrange for us to have this amount of money before June 1, 1912 to be expended in this manner as a whole on the items above but not necessarily in the proportions allotted above to each individual item.

Yours truly,

Robert S. Peabody,  
James M. Prendergast,  
Daniel H. Coakley,

Board of Park Commissioners.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

In a tree-sheltered hollow, near Elm Hill avenue and the Seaver street boundary of Franklin Park, an herbaceous garden was started during the past season. This delightful and instructive form of gardening has been known by various names. Grandmother's Garden, a favorite name, carries one back to old-fashioned times and sweet recollections. The hardy garden, as it is frequently designated, has a practical sound; it conveys the idea of planting such things as will exist in our climate without the trouble of housing under glass in winter. The garden at Franklin Park, while a distinctive feature of the park itself, will show what can be done with native and exotic plants of a hardy character in beautifying home grounds. This lesson will be for the cottager, as well as for those

who have more pretentious homes and extensive grounds. The garden follows the sinuosities of the shrub bordered tree plantation, extending around two sides of the hollow, a length of about twelve or fifteen hundred feet. Although this planting could not be done until far into June, yet the display in late summer and early fall was most gratifying. Last fall thousands of daffodils, crocuses, snowdrops, scilla, liliums, etc., were planted for spring blooming; thus the border, as the seasons follow each other, will offer varying phases of beauty. The floor of the hollow is a nearly level space, flanked by a bare ridge, when suitably planted, will complete the sense of inclosure and shelter for the garden.

Many of the trees in the young plantations are now from forty to fifty feet in height, and are growing rapidly. Pruning and thinning have been carefully done. The old woodlands continue to improve in health and vigor, due to judicious thinning and the careful conservation of all fallen leaves. These are gathered in the fall into shallow heaps, under the trees, and covered with a little loam, to prevent their being fired, and, when somewhat decayed, the following year, they are spread over the floor of the woodland.

These woodlands are of Nature's planting, and while stunted in growth, yet they give a naturalistic appearance, which the young plantations cannot impart for years to come. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the growth of the woodland trees, especially where situated on rocky ledges, should be encouraged and strengthened by the addition of loam.

During the past year a considerable quantity of undergrowth was planted in the Wilderness in Franklin Park. We have a fine lot of similar material in the nursery, including flowering dogwood (*Cornus Florida*), hemlocks, etc., for planting in the woodlands next season. Evidence of the wear and tear of the undergrowth, caused by the greater use of the parks each year, is becoming more manifest, and its maintenance thereby is seriously interfered with.

REPORT OF OLMSTED BROTHERS.

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Mr. R.S. Peabody, Chairman Board of Park Commissioners,  
Boston, Mass.:

DEAR SIR, — At your request we have amde a careful inspection of the Boston parks and submit below our comments and suggestions on matters of design connected therewith:...

Franklin Park. — This park is one of the most important municipal parks in the country, both with respect to size and cost and in the character of its landscape beauty, yet to the student of municipal affairs it seems surprising and regrettable that it is not more used. It is probable that for most of the population the enjoyment of scenery is in a more or less embryonic state, just as is their enjoyment of symphony concerts or works of fine art. They must be appealed to be the stronger, simpler and more easily understood compositions. Thus the panoramic views from the top of a high, bare hill or the extensive and striking views over the harbor from Marine Park are more easily appreciated by the majority than the smaller scenes in Ellicottdale and the Playstead in Franklin Park. It is also true that the majority will patronize more artificial amusement resorts in which something is "going on" or in which there is something to do. In the main that sort of amusement must be left to the commercial purveyors of amusements, yet it has been found possible to provide for certain entertaining features in large public parks without undue sacrifice of their principal object, which is that of providing beautiful scenery. It is in accordance with the original plan to have ornamental water fowl on Scarboro pond. It was also intended to have deer on the Blue Hill avenue and Seaver street corner of the park, and a collection of hardy wild animals and birds in Long Crouch Woods, and trained animals, such as driving goats, riding donkeys and ponies and even camels in the Little Folks' Fair. A loop track for pony riding, fenced in to afford a sense of safety from runaways, was indicated on the plan. Presumably for lack of funds and of sufficient encouragement these popular features have never been carried out. The Music Court and The Greeting were other features planned for popular attractions which have never been constructed. The Refectory was planned and built on a scale adequate for many people to enjoy ice cream, soda water and other light refreshments, but has not been a success because it was run on a commercial basis, instead of solely for the benefit of visitors to the park. There ought to be popular music there, with refreshments at the lowest prices but of attractive quality, supplied directly by the Park Commission. It was distinctly the intention of the original designer that the large part of the park northeast of Glen lane should be supplied with various means of popular recreation which could reasonable fit in with the local conditions and sound park policy, but with the confident expectation that if such things were fully provided in this amusement



section of the park they could be and would be kept out of the rest of the park, which was carefully distinguished on the plan as to style of development and maintenance by being called the Country Park.

Plans were devised last year for some of these popular means of recreation in the Seaver street borders of the park. Although differing in detail from the original plan they are quite in accord with its essential purposes. One of the principal differences consists in the abandonment of the wide central drive and the bridle path and bicycle path ideas in The Greeting, a moderate narrowing of the formal treatment and the providing of sites for zoological buildings on each side. There is no radical objection to such buildings in this location, from the point of view of the original design, provided they are kept low and are made inconspicuous by their color and material and by vines and other planting. There is, however, a great objection to burdening the already overburdened annual maintenance fund with the disproportionately great cost of keeping tropical and subtropical animals and the buildings and grounds of a zoological garden. The original idea, as has been said, was to confine the collection to strictly hardy animals requiring comparatively simple and cheap inclosures and shelters and cheap food and care. It would certainly be prudent to go slowly in such a case, unless, as was originally intended, a zoological society with ample means will undertake the care of the zoological collection and its buildings and grounds.

At the time the park was laid out, automobiles had not been developed. They are so objectionable in a great popular park that they have not yet been allowed in Franklin Park, nor, for reasons already stated, in the Arboretum. They are so much used for pleasure that it seems advisable to admit them to Franklin Park with reasonable restrictions. They might be gradually or experimentally admitted by a system of special licenses. At some places it may be necessary to provide bridges or subways by which people on foot may safely cross the line of automobile and carriage traffic. At other places it may be sufficient to restrict the foot crossing to certain points and to provide a park guard or keeper during busy hours at each important crossing.

In the original plan a brook was shown starting at a point east of Schoolmaster Hill at a spring, partly supplied by subsoil drains in The Playstead and other places that were originally wet, and this brook as also the pools in the low part of Nazingdale were to be supplied in dry weather from underground reservoir in the wilderness. This brook in turn was to supply Scarboro pond, the brook and pools involved having walks also. With the subsequent introduction of golf, these features, the construction of which had not been undertaken owing to lack of funds for the purpose, became decidedly undesirable. In fact, no distinct invitation, such as walks afford, is offered to visitors to go to Scarboro pond from Abbotswood and its vicinity. The broad meadow landscape certainly is a more valuable feature in the park, yet it is questionable whether the time will not come when, owing to the increasing use of the park, golf must be discontinued, at first during busy times and later

entirely, for the greater good of the greater number. The foot traffic to and from Scarboro pond may then become so great as to require a walk, and possible then one or both the pools may be desirable, not because they are better landscape features than the simple meadow, but because they would be more interesting to most visitors, especially if made in the form of shallow wading pools.

One of the most important features of the original plan was the recognition of the view from the Overlook to the Great Blue Hill. No tree planting should ever be permitted which would block it. The end of the Overlook from which this view is obtained has been found to be too sunny. Suitable trees of various sorts and of moderate growth might well be planted irregularly there, but not nearer the parapet than six feet. No doubt blasting would have to be resorted to to get room for the required bed of topsoil under the walk paving.

The terraces on Schoolmaster Hill were originally provided with stone piers, beams and rafters covered with vines, forming attractive pergolas. For some unknown reason these pergolas were subsequently removed. They were good and can easily be restored. The idea was that the various compartments were to be provided with simple tables and benches and waste boxes and that they were to be used under proper supervision by family and other picnic parties.

It was the intention to have a competent organizer employed, not only to bring visitors to the park by to have a competent organizer employed, not only to bring visitors to the park by means of articles in the papers, and by lectures to church and other societies with lantern slides and folders, photographs, flowers and other suitable means of advertising, but also by organizing picnic parties and other parties to go to the park, and by helping them in every way to have a good time when they get there. The idea was only carried out to the extent of employing a supervisor of play on The Playstead. Such a man would call people's attention to the season of flowering of showy or interesting shrubs, or the coming of attractive birds. He might even arrange for the introduction of showy birds such as the cardinal bird, scarlet tanager, Baltimore oriole and others. He could advertise skating or sleighing. He could organize tennis competitions. He could teach the children new games, get up tobogganing parties, kodak parties, nature study parties and so on. A clever organizer and entertainer would convey a good deal of interesting information mixed with friendly conversation in a human and natural way instead of by the repellent "patter" of the ordinary guide. In fact all the guides on the park (who should not be called police nor be police in the ordinary sense) should, without offensive obtrusiveness, call the attention of visitors to interesting things in the park, the region of chipmunks and squirrels, the different localities where pretty birds are to be found, the turtles, the flowering dogwoods or thorns, and so on. No doubt many a visitor leaves the park without having seen Scarboro pond or the view from Hagborn Hill or the swans or the tennis playing. Although disagreeable in themselves, more guide boards and tree and shrub

labels would help visitors to get more satisfaction from a visit to the park.

Sigourney street should be extended substantially as originally planned in order to complete a proper traffic boundary along the northwest side of the park.

The ride originally planned to run through the southwest and southeast borders of the park should be constructed, and it should be one of the duties of the suggested social organizer to increase the amount of horse-back riding. There seems to be no good reason why the ride circuit should not be completed in the space between Glen lane and the circuit drive.

The increased use of the entrance at Blue Hill avenue and Columbia road makes some enlargement and modification to the facilities there desirable. It would be well to consider an open shelter at the street car stopping place and an increase of the tree shaded macadam area there and down to the circuit drive, with more or less continuous benches along its edges. A simple but spacious public toilet house may soon be needed, either in connection with the car shelter or in one of the nearby zoological buildings. The circular plot at the southeast end of The Greeting should be squared, so far as its northwest half is concerned, and a wide walk laid out to follow the entrance drive. The drive entrance southeast of this circle does not appear to be much needed, and it might be well to plant across it, having one walk only to connect with Blue Hill avenue at that point. The drives southwest and northeast of the circular plot might be narrowed to twenty-five feet or thirty feet, so as to diminish the foot crossing, and the rest of the circular driveway might be retained as a place in which to leave carriages and automobiles while their occupants visit the zoological collection or the Refectory.

Constantly increasing numbers of people cross the circuit drive west of the Refectory. It is a dangerous crossing because of the excessive amount of shrubbery there. If a fence is needed, parallel with the drive, it should be a low, substantial steel picket fence, covered with vines and with a few low shrubs only. It may be desirable in time to raise a mound southwest of the circuit drive and walk, and to carry the foot traffic over both drive and walk by a bridge completely fencing both, so as to stop crossing at grade. At present many people walk in the entrance drive. This is partly because the adjoining walk is not wide enough and smooth enough, and partly because it is partially concealed and encroached upon by shrubs, and partly because it ends abruptly at the circle. These objections should be remedied and a park guard placed there to regulate the foot traffic. Also there appears to be need of another wide walk along the northwest side of the entrance drive from The Greeting to the circuit drive. Much of the ground north and northeast of Abbotswood is in a worn-out and ugly condition, owing to lack of good soil and to the proximity of ledge. Wherever possible, two feet depth of topsoil should be added.

Where this cannot be done without injury to trees, blasting should be done. There are other places in the park needing similar treatment, but this locality is the most conspicuously in need of immediate attention.

The wide approach street suggested on the original plan to connect with Boylston station on the Providence Railroad not having been constructed, the wide park entrance at Sigourney street might well be reduced to ordinary dimensions. The drive entrance from Sigourney street a little surther south has proved unnecessary and might well be reduced to a single walk.

The service buildings and yards for the park having been developed at the south end of the park, the site proposed for the Steading, near Sigourney street, has remained unimproved. It might be well to construct here, and in the more open land northeast of it, a playground for little children, as it would be convenient for the growing population of the valley northwest of the park. Basket ball, tether ball, handball (with a wall), a wading pool, sand courts, inclosed lawn for babies, scups, swings, teeter boards, spring boards, slides, ladders, giant's strides, hand teeter bars, circular running beams and a merry-go-round (without music) are some of the appliances customary. Similar apparatus was intended to be installed in the Little Folks' Fair, but it might be better in the section marked Deer Park on the original plan, as this would be handier for the local population east of the park and further from the suggested Sigourney Playground.

It was a particular feature of the original plan to close the Country Park portion of Franklin Park at night, that is, all the part of the park southwest of Glen lane. The reasons were that it would not only be unreasonably expensive to thoroughly light and police so large an area of rolling land, much of which is covered with trees and shrubbery, but also because the lamp-posts would be offensively out of keeping with the designed character of the landscape. With this end in view a wall was built along much of Glen lane and the other boundaries of Country Park and it was intended to continue it along the rest of the boundaries, and gates were planned and some of them built. Some of these gates have been since removed for no apparently adequate reason. It should be carefully considered whether the idea of closing the Country Park at night and of thoroughly lighting and policing at night the part northeast of Glen lane should not now be put in practice.

The concourse on Scarboro Hill was designed and built to enable visitors in carriages and on foot to enjoy the beautiful views of which the most important is that of Great Blue Hill. The latter is only visible, however, in winter when the trees are leafless, no one having had the courage to cut down the few obstructing trees because they are large. The view is worth more than the trees of course or the concourse would never have been built. Unfortunately many additional trees have been planted on what was open land below the concourse. These should be removed so far as they already, or will hereafter, unduly obstruct the views. The concourse wall was intended

to be covered with vines and to be further masked by shrubbery not high enough to interfere with the view. There would be little objection to adding a few trees in the sidewalk of the concourse to afford shade, providing they are trimmed up high to leave the view open for people in carriages.

The Dairy was intended partly as a headquarters for the sheep which it was designed to herd on the broad meadows of the Country Park, both to keep the grass short in a rustic style and for the sake of their interest and picturesque effect, but mainly to provide a small restaurant where fresh dairy products could be served. This might be combined with the shepherd's residence. The building was intended to closely resemble a typical New England farmhouse. The idea was carried out, although in a too sophisticated manner, in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, and is an attractive feature of the park. It was hoped that many invalids or convalescents would be induced by their physicians to drive or walk to this dairy lunch place for a bowl of bread and milk, while delicate babies could have milk warm from the cow. Incidentally there was to be a public toilet there for that end of the park.

The district named Heathfield\*, on the original plan, was intended to present an example of the very pretty effect often seen in abandoned pastures, of wild flowers and low bushes and creepers, prostrate juniper, heath, calluna, sweet fern, sheep laurel, everlasting, gentian, daisies, and the like, with stonecrop and rock plants on the ledges. Rock Milton commands a fine view of the Milton Hills, but few go there owing to the absence of the intended path and a sign. The base of this cliff plunges into the water of Scarboro pond, but more of the detritus at the base should be removed to increase the bold effect. The intended path and viewpoint summer house should be executed on Rock Morton. Some paths on Juniper Hill would tend to make that characteristic field of red cedars more resorted to. Mountain laurel is attractive and it has been appropriately introduced into the Wilderness at one place, but the group there is too much of an obvious gardener's effort, the group being solely laurel and the plants too uniformly spaced and the ground cultivated like a garden bed. In such a case it is not so important that the plants should be individually fine specimens as it is that they should appear to have become naturally established there.

Where trees have been planted in the more open parts of the park, the work has been well done and the selection of sorts is admirable. The predominating use of the native oaks is particularly to be commended as they are well adapted to the poor soil and harmonize with the original woods and tend to differentiate this park in the right direction from most of the other parks of the country where excessive use has been made of poplars, soft and sugar maples, and a few other common trees. The cultivation of the whole surface among these trees is undoubtedly the best way to secure a rapid and healthy growth. The time has arrived, however, when it is proper to discontinue this cultivation, which produces a very artificial and ugly

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\*Now the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital.

appearance, and to smooth the ground, and to plant shade-enduring undergrowth where it is not intended visitors should go, or grass and woodland flowers where people may stroll. In many cases these plantations end on a gently curving line and are faced down with what appears to be a nearly uniform row of small growing trees. The effect is too artificial. The margins should be broken into by bays of turf and a few scattering trees should be added far out on the meadows. At the same time, the small growing trees should be more crowded in some places than others and the view under them should be stooped in some places by shade-enduring shrubs of various sorts and woodland flowers such as asters, goldenrods, violets, ferns and so on. In general, the trees in these plantations are too uniformly spaced and too much like a succession of individual wide-branched specimens to look as natural as they should. There should be more semblance of accident and unexpected combinations. For instance, an occasional gray birch growing many stems from one root with some catbriar clambering on it might appear on the edge of a grove next a big boulder, but rarely if at all elsewhere on the park, or in a low place a crowded extensive belt of *illex glabra*, *clethra*, elderberry and tall goldenrod and asters might border a grove. There is opportunity for endless invention and contrivance to add effects of naturalness and variety and adaptation to local conditions, not only in this park but in others where naturalistic landscape is attempted. It would be well to constantly aim to please the artist. Few artists are attracted to well developed, round headed, healthy trees, almost evenly spaced, as appealing subjects for a picture. What most pleases the horticulturist seldom suits the artist. He either looks for large effects of color or mass, with prevailing harmony but some limited contrast of form or color or light or shade, or else he looks for picturesque, small local effects, with some deep shadow or a high light, or a dash of brilliant color, or a grooked gnarled trunk, or a mossy hole and fern-covered decaying stump. The arboricultural work done of late years on the parks cannot be too highly praised. It is perhaps the best in the country, considering the limitations, but the artistic side of park planting has not been quite what it should be.

There is a tendency, not perhaps so marked in the Boston parks as in some others, to use pretty much the same selection of trees and shrubs for the predominant effects in one park of the system as in another. This comes from excessive attention to the arboricultural and economical side of the business of planting and too little to the artistic side. One man will perhaps be struck by the advantages of the sycamore and will plant it on hill parks, on parkways, on meadow parks, on city squares, and on seashore grounds indiscriminately. Another man will remember that he has seen it in nature mostly along rivers or brooks and will reserve it, like willows and river birch, for river parks or for low moist places. Another man, finding that a particular kind of tree has become badly infested with worms, will refuse to use it under any circumstances even where it would be the most appropriate tree to use, as, for instance, the American elm on a college campus. One may properly be cautious in using such trees, yet the risk of loss or the expense of preserving healthy growth may be fully justifiable

in some cases. So, too, in the matter of hardiness. To utterly refuse to use a certain kind of tree because it is not hardy during a long life or under ordinary conditions may debar one from securing desirable effects which, even if they are not permanent, may be well worth having while they do last. If it is a question of a formal row of trees intended to be permanent, hardiness is very important, but in an irregular mixed plantation it may not be objectionable but on the contrary an advantage to use some trees that may be killed by some extra hard winter or some unusually late frost, because it may accomplish a needed thinning naturally which the powers that be might neglect or refuse to do with the axe used on good live trees.

In Franklin Park, the Overlook Shelter and the Ellicottdale Field House are examples of important buildings successfully harmonized with the park landscape. The Refectory near Blue Hill avenue, designed by different architects, on the other hand, is offensively self-assertive and inharmonious with the landscape. This failure in design appears to be mainly due to a wrong choice of material, but is partly due to lack of attention to the training of vines over it. The building would have been far more in harmony with its surroundings if it had been built with outer walls of colored seam-faced puddingstone, such as could have been obtained in the quarry on the park, instead of pale bright yellow brick. If it could be tinted successfully, as regards sticking permanently, with a cement wash with some agreeable shade of warm brown and then carefully covered with vines, the park landscape would be benefited, even though the architecture of the building might be somewhat suppressed. This building was located in so prominent a place for the express purpose of affording to its patrons enjoyable views. It was expected to subdue the building by the unusually extensive and high vine-clad pergola and by a few tall trunked trees which would permit views under their foliage, and the great rock-faced terrace was to be covered with vines and masked by bushes. As it is, the vines are not as abundant as they should have become in the years that have passed since they were planted, and the hillside is densely planted with tall growing trees. Many of these trees should be removed and replaced by small growing sorts which will never obstruct the view.

Franklin Field. — The wisdom of acquiring this playfield park, both as a much needed provision for field sports and as a means of defending Franklin Park from excessive wear and tear and undesirable artificialization of the meadows of the Country Park portion, has been more and more demonstrated by its increasing use. It is evident that the time is not far distant when its rougher and more or less ledgy portion must be better utilized. With this in view, a careful study could advisable be made at this time for future grading, so the Park Superintendent will be enabled to take advantage of any suitable filling material that may be available in the neighborhood.

The quadrant shaped corner entrance has not been properly graded and there is need of a wall and other improvements there. The sidewalk along the northeast side should be graded as a wide promenade where benches may be placed, in the shade of trees, trimmed high, to permit a view over the low playfield. The Blue Hill avenue frontage is in need of a better finish. An outdoor gymnasium, under proper supervision, would add materially to the usefulness of the Field. The increase in population of the vicinity will make a little folks' playfield desirable in time, and if carefully planned, some features of it could be executed at once. For instance, a wading pool would afford much pleasure without the expense of expert supervision.

Columbia Road. — Although unfortunately too narrow, in part, and, still worse, unduly crowded by buildings, owing to failure to secure a building limit line, this connection with the Strandway has apparently been a financial success, as it appears to have greatly increased the assessable value of property along and near it. It is deficient in nice finish and maintenance. The shrubbery, introduced in some places where there was room for it, is often too wild and untidy for the character of the surroundings. On the other hand, some buildings, with the consent of the owners, might well be covered with vines. Where possible, electric wires should be put under ground and the poles removed. The trolley and other necessary poles might, as a rule, or occasionally, for variety, be dressed with vines trained to a woven wire ribbon so as not to interfere unduly with painting or other needed access to the poles.

Park Guards. — Those who have had the management of parks at heart have gradually become convinced that the public should be guided and controlled in the use of them by a set of guards or keepers entirely distinct from and trained entirely differently from the city police. They should be organized directly by the park superintendent and should be appointed and discharged by him for insubordination, laziness, incompetence and the like, just as foremen and common laborers are, or should be, if an efficient and economical organization is to be maintained. The city police should have the right and duty to watch over the parks to protect property and persons and to make arrests for violation of law just as they do over similarly extensive private grounds, but they cannot be expected, nor can the ordinary law courts be expected or relied upon to enforce what to them may seem the petty and trivial rules and regulations of park commissions. On the contrary, there should be a force of special park guards and a special park magistrate's court to handle infractions of park rules. The conditions of park use are such that the number, character and location of park guards must necessarily vary enormously if the desired results are to be obtained. The number of park guards or keepers must be adjusted to the seasons and occasions when visitors in the parks are numerous. The park guards who more particularly regulate traffic on the drives or at gates, or those for buildings or for boating or skating, may differ in character and training



from those who are to protect turf, shrubs and flowers from excessive wear or injury. It must be made easy for the superintendent, or head keeper, to shift a few of many park guards from point to point in a large park, or from park to park, or even to distant parts of the city at short notice. For economy it is advisable to recruit the guard force partly from the regular park foremen, assistant foremen, gardeners, assistant gardeners, clerks, timekeepers and other employees, and a large reserve force can be made up of citizens whose occupations are such that they can undertake this duty during a portion of the year, or on occasions throughout the year, or during part of each day during the period when parks are most visited. Park guards should be in a modest inconspicuous yet distinctive uniform in which they can work at other things when there is little need of devoting all their time to watching and guiding visitors. Park guards should be well educated and have good manners and good address. They should be cautious in arresting or resorting to force, yet they must be prepared to do so if need be. Hence they must be physically fit and must keep in training. They must have bicycles or motor cycles and must report frequently at telephones placed at frequent intervals or even at portable telephones, so they can keep in touch with headquarters or secure help quickly when need be. Activity is one of the essential requirements. When they find it necessary to arrest a visitor for refusal to obey park rules, the case should be promptly examined and the fine inflicted (if warranted) with as little inconvenience and loss of time to the offender as possible. The effort should be to impress each offender with the certainty that the park rules will be enforced, rather than with the severity of the penalty, and all care should be taken to avoid whatever is humiliating and physically disagreeable to the obstinate or foolish victim and especially anything resembling jail or criminal appliances and customs, except in actually criminal cases. This subject is of vital importance to the park system and should be carefully looked into. If favorable action cannot be secured at this time, it should be sought hereafter at intervals of a few years, or when any change of personnel in the city government offers a better chance of success.

Respectfully submitted,

Olmsted Brothers.

Table of the Comparative Cost per Acre of the Maintenance of Eight Important Park Systems in the United States.

NAME.	ACRES.			Total Maintenance Cost.	Average Cost per Acre.	Wage per day and Hours per Day.	Police.	Light and Water.	Year.	Remarks.
	Total.	Improved.	Partly Improved.							
Buffalo.....	1,052	1,052	.....	\$140,940 65	\$134 00	\$1 75 8 hours.	.....	Not Included.	Ending June 30, 1908.	Zoological collection omitted, \$9,518.82.
Cincinnati.....	528	528	.....	77,914 00	147 00	.....	Included.	Included.	1908.	
New York, Brooklyn and Queens.	2,438	1,688	750	935,344 70	383 00	\$2 00 8 hours.	Not Included.	Not Included.	1909.	Following omitted: City trees, Zoological Department, music, Museum of Arts and Sciences, children's museums. Total, \$187,410.
New York, Manhattan and Richmond.	1,639	1,385	274	1,026,061 29	618 00	\$2 50 8 hours.	Not Included.	Not Included.	1909.	Following omitted: City trees, Zoological Department, music, aquarium, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum Natural History. Total, \$496,793.75.
Chicago, Lincoln Park .....	453	453	.....	238,997 13	527 00	\$2 00 8 hours.	Not Included.	Not Included.	Ending December 31, 1907.	Music omitted, \$3,340.50.
Chicago, South Park.....	2,430	1,725	705	717,487 52	295 00	.....	Not Included.	Not Included.	Ending December 31, 1907.	Music omitted, \$15,674.32.
Chicago, West, Parks.....	1,029	1,029	.....	391,254 65	380 00	\$1 75 8 hours.	Not Included.	Not Included.	Ending December 31, 1907.	Music omitted, \$5,330.
Boston.....	1,921	1,771	150	312,166 05	162 00	\$2 25 8 hours.	Not Included.	Not Included.	Ending January 31, 1908.	

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